



Household Hazardous Waste

*How to recognize, manage and dispose of it
in Mecklenburg County*



Waste Reduction in Mecklenburg County

Did you know?

Chemicals are a way of life in most American homes. **A typical home can contain 100 to 200 products** used for cleaning, painting, lubricating, disinfecting, etc. the house, yard, workshop, and garage.

When used according to label directions, most household products pose little hazard to people or to the environment. However, these products may become hazardous when used, stored, or disposed of carelessly. **Improper use may cause toxic health effects. Improper storage may harm people or the environment.** Some chemicals when released into the environment cause water, soil or air pollution and may be toxic to people or animals. Improper disposal allows these materials to enter the environment directly. **Water may be polluted or wildlife killed**, or chemicals may accumulate in the food chain of people or wildlife.

The products from a single home seem insignificant, but when countless thousands of homes use similar products and dispose of them down the drain or in the landfill, the combined effect becomes a major problem.

A few precautions can prevent unused household products or containers from becoming hazardous waste.

Disposal Options:

Mecklenburg County offers free household hazardous waste disposal to its residents living in Charlotte, Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Mint Hill and Pineville. **The County contracts with ECOFLO to maintain collection sites at four recycling centers (see list on the back of this brochure).** Hazardous materials brought in are collected and evaluated for recycling, treatment, or proper disposal by ECOFLO. By disposing of household hazardous waste properly, citizens help to protect our water supply and our natural resources.

How to Store & Pack for Disposal:

- Store material in its original container.
- Label contents clearly.
- Never mix different or unknown chemicals.
- Keep away from heat.
- Be sure containers don't leak.
- Pack securely in sturdy box for transporting.

Acceptable Materials:

Paint, thinners, strippers, solvents, flammable oils, gas, kerosene, pesticides, cleaning agents, household batteries (alkaline and nickel-cadmium), lead acid batteries, photographic chemicals, aerosol cans, fluorescent light bulbs, pool chemicals, unknown chemicals.

Unacceptable Materials:

Used tires, pressurized gas cylinders greater than 20 pounds, ammunition, gun powder, explosives, smoke detectors, radioactive materials, bio-infectious material, regular trash.

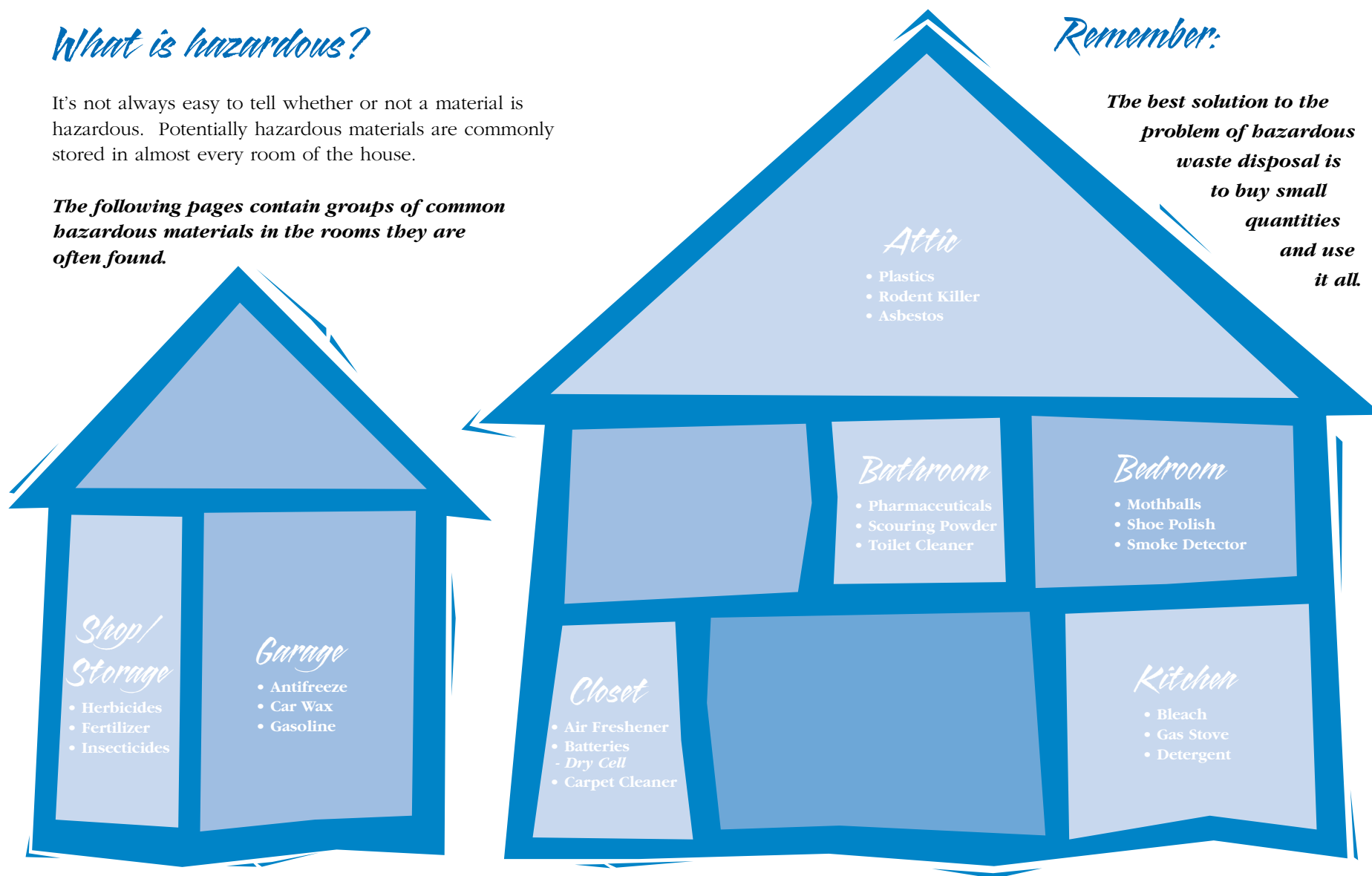
What is hazardous?

It's not always easy to tell whether or not a material is hazardous. Potentially hazardous materials are commonly stored in almost every room of the house.

The following pages contain groups of common hazardous materials in the rooms they are often found.

Remember:

The best solution to the problem of hazardous waste disposal is to buy small quantities and use it all.



Common Household Hazardous Materials

Automotive Supplies:

- Antifreeze
- Automatic Transmission Fluid
- Batteries-Dry Cell
- Batteries-Wet Cell
- Brake Fluid
- Car Wax
- Carburetor Cleaner
- Engine Degreaser
- Gasoline
- Kerosene & Diesel Fuel
- Motor Oil
- Petroleum Distillates
- Windshield Wiper Solution
- Alkalies & Alkalines

Attic:

- Ammunition
- Arts & Crafts
- Asbestos
- Glues & Adhesives
- Mothballs
- Paint
- Paint Thinner
- Paint & Varnish Remover
- Plastics
- Rodent Killer
- Smoke Detector

Bathroom:

- Aerosols
- Asbestos Floor Tiles
- Disinfectant
- Drain Cleaner
- Floor Cleaner
- Hair Color
- Hair Permanent
- Hair Spray
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Mildew Remover
- Nail Polish
- Nail Polish Remover
- Pharmaceuticals
- Scouring Powder
- Toilet Cleaner
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Bedroom:

- Carpet Cleaner
- Dry Cleaning
- Furniture Cleaner
- Furniture Polish
- Mothballs
- Shoe Polish
- Smoke Detector
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Closet / General Supplies:

- Aerosols
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Aluminum Cleaner
- Air Freshener
- Batteries - Dry Cell
- Carpet Cleaner
- Floor Cleaner
- Furniture Cleaner
- Furniture Polish
- Insect Repellent
- Shoe Polish
- Pet Supplies
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Garden Supplies:

- Arsenic
- Herbicides
- Fertilizer
- Insecticides
- Insect Repellent
- Rodent Killer

Garage:

- Aerosols
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Aluminum Cleaner
- Ammunition
- Asbestos
- Asphalt/Roofing Tar
- Exhaust Fumes
(Carbon Monoxide)
- Glues & Adhesives
- Paint
- Paint Thinner
- Paint & Varnish Remover
- Photography Chemicals
- Plastics
- Pool Chemicals
- Septic Tank Cleaner
- Smoke Detector
- Solvent
- Sulfuric Acid
- Window Cleaner
- Wood Preservatives

Common Household Hazardous Materials

Kitchen:

- All Purpose Cleaners
- Aluminum Cleaners
- Asbestos Floor Tile
- Bleach
- Gas Stove
- Detergent
- Disinfectant
- Drain Cleaner
- Floor Cleaner
- Plastics
- Oven Cleaners
- Roach Killer
- Rodent Killer
- Scouring Powder
- Smoke Detector
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Even though it's tempting, don't pour grease down the drain of your kitchen sink. It can get in the water system, as well as clog up your drain. Instead, pour grease into a container or coffee can or blot up with absorbent materials like kitty litter or paper towels and place into regular trash.

Laundry Room / Basement:

- All Purpose Cleaners
- Bleach
- Carpet Cleaner
- Detergent
- Drain Cleaner
- Dry Cleaning
- Dyes
- Floor Cleaner
- Radon
- Shoe Polish
- Smoke Detector
- Spot Remover
- Starch
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Living Room:

- Carpet Cleaner
- Fireplace Cleaner
- Furniture Cleaner
- Furniture Polish
- Smoke Detector
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Household Hazardous Waste Do's & Don'ts

Do's

- Think carefully before buying a product. Do you really need it? Do you already have something similar?
- Buy just enough product to do the job.
- Read the label and follow use, storage and disposal directions carefully.
- Keep leftover product in original labeled containers so that you can refer to directions for proper use and disposal.
- When the label indicates, drain all containers thoroughly with plenty of water.
- When the label indicates that containers can be placed in the trash, wrap the EMPTY container in several layers of newspaper and dispose of with other household garbage.

Don'ts

- Do not burn used or leftover products or product containers. Burning may produce toxic fumes.
- Do not bury leftover products or containers in your yard or garden.
- Do not reuse pesticide or other chemical containers for other purposes.
- Do not put any liquids in the trash.
- Do not mix chemical products or wastes.



Medical Waste for Residents

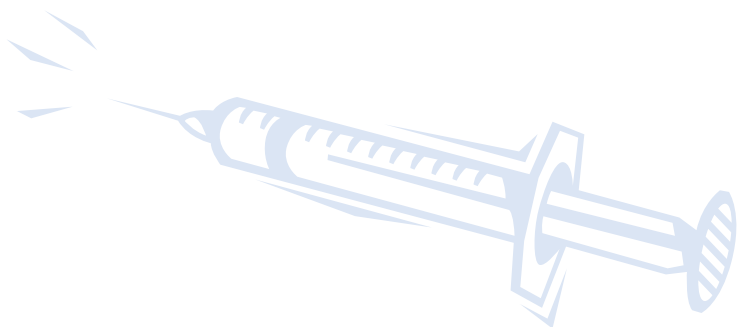
Never dispose of medication by pouring down the drain or by flushing it. Medication should not be allowed to get in the water system.

Please dispose of by:

Pills: dissolve in water, then mix into kitty litter and place into regular trash;

Liquids: mix straight into kitty litter, and place into regular trash;

Sharps: (needles and knives) place in rigid plastic container (Like a liquid detergent bottle or bio medical container) and place into regular trash.



Choose safer alternatives:

Whenever possible, substitute a safer alternative for a hazardous product. Here are some cleaning suggestions that use basic (and non-hazardous) household ingredients.

- **All-Purpose Cleaner** — Mix together 1 gallon hot water, 1/4 cup ammonia, 1/4 cup vinegar and 1 tablespoon baking soda.
- **Drain Cleaner** — Mix 1 cup baking soda, 1 cup salt and 1/4 cup cream of tartar. Pour 1/4 cup of this into drain, followed by a pot of boiling water, then flush with cold water. Do this weekly.
- **Oven Cleaner** — Mix 3 tablespoons of baking soda with 1 cup warm water. Rub gently with steel wool. A dish of ammonia left in oven overnight will soften burnt spills.
- **Window Cleaner** — Mix 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/8 cup vinegar and 1 quart of warm water in a spray bottle.
- **Tub & Tile Cleaner** — Use Borax and water.
- **Ink Stains** — Soak in milk or blot with hydrogen peroxide or rubbing alcohol.
- **Grease** — Pour boiling water on stains and cover with dry baking soda.
- **Heavy soils** — Rub with a solution of 2 tablespoons baking soda and 1 cup warm water.
- **Blood** — Soak in cold water or remove with hydrogen peroxide.
- **Rust** — Saturate with sour milk or lemon juice. Rub with salt, then place in direct sunlight to dry. Wash.

Mecklenburg County Recycling Centers that accept Household Hazardous Waste

***The following recycling centers offer free household hazardous
waste disposal to residents living in Charlotte, Cornelius, Davidson,
Huntersville, Mint Hill and Pineville:***

***North Mecklenburg Recycling Center
12300 N. Statesville Road***

Phone: 704-875-1563

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday; 7am - 3pm

Directions: From I-77 North...turn right onto Reames Rd. (exit 18)...turn left at stop light (US 21) and travel North approximately 3 miles. The North Mecklenburg Recycling Center and Yard Waste Center entrance is on the right.

***Hickory Grove Recycling Center
8007 Pence Road***

Phone: 704-535-3781

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday; 7am - 3pm

Directions: From Albemarle Road (going away from Charlotte) make a left at Harrisburg Rd. (not Harris Blvd.) There will be a BP service station and a Walmart on your left. Turn left onto Pence Rd (just before the railroad tracks). Turn right about 1/2 mile into recycling center entrance.

***Foxhole Recycling Center
17131 Lancaster Highway***

Phone: 704-341-4962

***Hours: Friday, 7am - 4 pm,
Saturday 7 am - 3 pm***

Directions: From 485 East, exit Johnston Rd., go south on Johnston Rd. (US 521) almost to the SC border. The Foxhole's entrance is the last left turn before the border.

***West Mecklenburg Recycling Center
8440 Byrum Drive***

Phone: 704-357-1473

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday; 7am - 3pm

Directions: From I-77 South...turn right onto Billy Graham Parkway towards the airport...turn left onto West Boulevard and travel about 1 1/2 miles. Turn left onto Piney Top Drive. The entrance to the recycling center is on Piney Top, just before it intersects with Byrum Drive.

***For more information, contact Mecklenburg County
Solid Waste Management at 704-336-5359
or visit our web site at
www.wipeoutwaste.com***



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